



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

9 MARCH 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Camarillo – 40 Mile Car Chases Ends with Arrest of Suspected Burglars from Chilean Gang

(U) A 911 call about burglars in an occupied home led to a 40-mile police chase and then the arrest of two men believed to be part of the South American Theft Group that targets wealthy California neighborhoods. The burglary took place in Camarillo's Spanish Hills neighborhood. Law enforcement agencies in affluent California communities say organized Chilean gang members have for a few years been carrying out stealthy residential burglaries. Police in Atherton said Chilean gangs were suspected in six home burglaries there in January, including one in which about \$50,000 worth of jewelry and other items was stolen.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [The Mercury News](#)

(U) San Diego – Brother of Slain Capitol Rioter Face Hate Crime Charges in Attack

(U) A man facing battery and hate crime charges after being accused of attacking and hurling racial slurs at a utility worker last year in San Diego is the brother of Ashli Babbitt, who was shot and killed by a police officer while trying to enter a hallway outside the House chamber during the 6 January 2021 US Capitol riot. Roger Stefan Witthoeft Jr., 33, was arraigned 1 March on misdemeanor charges of battery with a hate crime enhancement and violating the victim's constitutional rights by threat of force, according to the San Diego city attorney's office.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Sacramento – Man Sentenced to 15 Years for Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine

(U) A 62-year-old Vallejo man was sentenced Monday in a Sacramento federal court to more than 15 years in prison for a scheme to distribute methamphetamine. On 26 July 2019, Ornelas plead guilty and admitted that he was responsible for 1,068 grams, or more than two pounds, of methamphetamine purchased during an undercover operation. In addition, on 20 July 2017, Ornelas sold a .380 handgun to the confidential informant. Ornelas had previously been convicted of felony drug offenses in Solano County in 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013.

SOURCE: 9 March 2022, [San Jose Mercury News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Texas Resident Guilty for Role in Assault on US Capitol

(U) Washington – A Texas man who joined the 6 January 2021, assault on the US Capitol by former President Donald Trump supporters was found guilty for his role in the attack, a milestone victory for federal prosecutors in the first such case to go before a jury. The defendant, Guy Reffitt, was found guilty on all five of the felony charges, including bringing a gun onto the Capitol grounds and obstructing an official proceeding. Reffitt's trial was seen as an important test case as the US Justice Department attempts to secure convictions from the hundreds of defendants who have not taken plea deals.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Florida – Former Proud Boys Chairman Arrested on US Capitol Riot Conspiracy Charge

(U) Miami – The former chairman of the US right-wing group the Proud Boys, Enrique Tarrio, was arrested yesterday on a conspiracy charge for his alleged role in plotting the 6 January 2021, assault on the Capitol in a bid to block certification of President Joe Biden's election. Tarrio, 38, appeared in a virtual Miami-based federal court hearing from a cellblock in a nearby local jail, and prosecutors said they were seeking to have him detained pending trial because they believe he is a danger to the community and poses a risk of flight.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Michigan – Trial Begins for Four Men Accused of Plotting to Kidnap Michigan Governor

(U) Grand Rapids – Prosecutors and defense attorneys presented their opening statements in the federal trial of four men accused of plotting to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2020 over restrictions she had imposed to control the pandemic. Adam Fox, Brandon Caserta, Barry Croft Jr. and Daniel Harris are charged with conspiracy to kidnap the Democratic governor from her vacation home. If convicted, they face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

SOURCE: 9 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – Dual National Charged with Acting as Unregistered Russian Agent in the US

(U) Manhattan – A dual national of the United States and Russia who ran an "I Love Russia" influence campaign has been charged with acting illegally as an unregistered agent of the Russian government, federal prosecutors in New York said yesterday. Elena Branson, 61, faces six criminal counts over allegations by prosecutors that she failed to register with the US government as a foreign government agent and participated in a visa fraud conspiracy. She left the United States for Russia in 2020 and remains at large, prosecutors said.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) New York – US Charges Siblings in \$124 Million Cryptocurrency Fraud

(U) Manhattan – US authorities filed criminal charges against a cryptocurrency executive and civil charges against him and his sister, accusing them of defrauding retail investors out of millions of dollars with a digital token known as Ormeus Coin. The Justice Department said John Barksdale lied about the value and profitability of Ormeus Coin's mining assets, including that the coin was backed by a \$250 million mining operation generating more than \$5 million of monthly revenue. John Barksdale has been arrested and faces up to 65 years in prison on securities fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy charges, according to the Justice Department.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – Militiamen Kill 18 Civilians in Church Compound

(U) Banyali Kilo – Militiamen have killed 18 civilians who had sought refuge in a church compound in eastern Congo, a witness and a local human rights groups said today. The attack took place in Banyali Kilo, a district in the conflict-riven Ituri province, as the victims slept in church outbuildings. They had fled there after escaping from previous attacks. Witnesses report CODECO was responsible for the attack. Its fighters have killed hundreds of civilians and in recent months targeted camps housing displaced people.

SOURCE: 9 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Pakistan – Six Pakistani Soldiers Killed in Suicide Bombing

(U) Quetta – At least six paramilitary soldiers were killed and 22 were injured in a suicide attack in southwest Pakistan yesterday, days after a suicide bombing at a Shi'ite Mosque in northwest Pakistan killed 63 people, officials said. Militant violence has risen in the South Asian nation amid political instability as country's opposition parties prepare to bring a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Imran Khan in the coming days. The ISIS affiliate in the region known as Islamic State in Khorasan province and headquartered in Afghanistan claimed yesterday's attack in a statement posted by the SITE Intelligence group.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Syria – Iran Vows to Avenge Two IRGC Members Killed in Israeli Attack in Syria

(U) Damascus – Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) vowed to avenge the death of two of its members in an Israeli air strike in Syria, state-run Press TV reported yesterday. An Israeli attack on the Syrian capital Damascus on Monday killed two civilians and left some material damage, Syrian state media reported citing a military source.

SOURCE: 8 March 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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